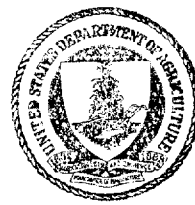




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REDINGTON SEES PROFITS  
FROM WILD LIFE IN FORESTS

The reliance that was at first placed on agricultural crops and practices and on methods of livestock production prevailing in the countries from which the early emigrants came to America was compared with present-day practices in wild-life conservation and production by Paul G. Redington of the United States Department of Agriculture in an address before the Third New England Forestry Congress which met February 1 at Hartford, Conn.

Mr. Redington, who is chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, said:

"A retrospective view of agricultural developments from the time of the early colonists and pioneer settlers impresses one with the fact that from the very first, the chief reliance has been placed on agricultural crops and practices which were known in other countries, and with which the people who settled this country and gave rise to its present population were familiar." Similarly, he said, livestock production was at first based chiefly on imported domestic strains, and a vast amount of effort by trial and error had been expended to improve crops and stock and to adapt them to conditions here before trained scientific workers undertook to solve the problems with modern research methods.

"On numerous game farms, fur farms, and wild-life refuges, and in public and private forests," Mr. Redington continued, "there have been added to our program of production certain species of wild life native to this country. In our opinion this has not been done to the extent that is desirable and warranted. In fact development of this field is urgently needed to round out the program of profitable utilization of our forest and other areas, especially those not primarily of an agricultural type." That this kind of research and experiment has not been as fully supported by the Federal and State governments as it

deserves was emphasized as of importance in increasing production and profits from land and water areas.

Practical forestry, Mr. Redington believes, will more and more recognize the value of animal and bird life as national assets, and will consider the planting of trees and shrubs to provide food for wild life. He anticipates an extension of "specialized lines of production that should supplement current practices "and add to the recreational and monetary values of land so used, by increasing materially the food and fur supply and affording the spiritual uplift that comes from contacts with wild life in the open. As an aid to such developments Mr. Redington spoke with approval of the recently enacted McSweeney-McNary bill, which includes in its program of forest research the study of the wild-life resources and problems of forested areas.

Discussing the development of water areas including swamps and lakes, Mr. Redington expressed disapproval of many extensive drainage proposals and cited numerous instances in which lands now in swamp were more valuable than cultivated acreage near-by. He mentioned the Suisun marshes in Solano County, California, mostly in possession of private shooting clubs, and "valued at far beyond what they would be if used for grazing or agriculture." He also mentioned areas in Orange and southern Los Angeles Counties, where artificial ponds have been created, supplied from artesian wells designed to flood dry lands and create shooting areas, thus adding greatly to their value. Another area where increase in waterfowl has led to increasing land valuations, said Mr. Redington, is along the Potomac River and parts of the Chesapeake Bay, where in suitable places the values have enhanced 300 to 400 per cent in recent years.

The fact that the Mississippi Valley furnishes so large a part of the \$60,000,000 annual fur crop, the speaker said, "suggests the importance of giving more adequate attention to the production on upland areas of valuable fur bearers." Many areas in the vicinity of the Great Lakes have proved valuable as fur farms, and one Wisconsin fur farmer recently made a shipment of pelts valued at more than \$1,000,000. Fish production and fur farming, he explained, can often be carried on together.

Full development of the game possibilities of the forests, said Mr. Redington, involves many problems. Big game in some areas has frequently multiplied too rapidly, to the detriment of trees and forage and livestock production, and until forests were so injured that the game starved. However, under wise management, game can add materially to the economic production of the forests. Wise management will require research and experimentation and will demand the control of such destructive species as porcupines, woodchucks, and other rodents, wolves and coyotes, and certain birds of prey.

Control work, which is under the supervision of the Biological Survey, is highly profitable to agriculture and forestry, Mr. Redington said, giving numerous examples of enhanced land values caused by such control of rodents and predatory species as has made possible increased production of livestock and of such valuable game species as deer, grouse and wild turkeys.

In conclusion, Mr. Redington pointed out the possibilities of improving wild life species to make them more adaptable to economic and recreational uses.

"Most remarkable results have been accomplished by such efforts in improving strains of wheat, corn, and oats. The question that should be considered is whether nature has done all that can be done in the development or improvement of our native wild life species. Little has as yet been undertaken in the way of experimental investigations employing modern methods designed to bring about improved strains of game and fur-bearing animals. Hence we are not in position to say to what extent it might be possible to stock or restock areas suited for the production of these forms with varieties that might prove hardier and more adaptable. It is possible that such animals might be made more attractive for the chase or the table, or more valuable for their fur.

"We have a vast natural resource in our wild life that has been exploited all too long, and now, by research, control, conservation, and production it must be developed to the fullest practicable extent. Only as we remember that we are only trustees, not owners in fee, of this important national asset, can we pass on this heritage or its equivalent to those who come after us."

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